

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 141527Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2431

INFO USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2675

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY, US

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS REACTION TO DEPT STATEMENT ON SYRIAN
JEWRY

REF: STATE 98648

1. ISRAELI PRESS MAY 14 GIVES MOSTLY FACTUAL COVERAGE TO SPOKESMAN'S MAY 13 STATEMENT RE SYRIAN JEWRY (REFTEL) WITH ONLY AFTERNOON MAARIV MAKING EDITORIAL COMMENT.
 2. JERUSALEM POST HEADLINES "US TRYING TO AID SYRIAN JEWRY-- STATE DEPT REVERSES STAND." REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON, POST CORRESPONDENT WRITES THAT DEPT "REVERSED ITS PREVIOUS HANDS-OFF STANCE WITH REGARD TO THE STATUS OF THE BELAGURED COMMUNITY OF JEWS IN SYRIA." ARTICLE STATES THAT DEPT WOULD NOT CONFIRM DISCLOSURE BY ADMINISTRATION AND ISRAELI SOURCES THAT SECRETARY HAS INDEED RAISED ISSUE WITH ASAD IN COURSE OF CURRENT MID EAST TRIP.
 3. MAARIV (SEGEV) IN BACKPAGE ARTICLE STATES THAT DEPARTMENTAL CLARIFICATION WAS MADE ON SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM SECRETARY.
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JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN US ARE REPORTED AS WELCOMING

DEPT'S ANNOUNCEMENT. CONTENTS OF DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENT ARE DESCRIBED AS IDENTICAL WITH STATEMENT BY SECRETARY HIMSELF TO JEWISH LEADERS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR MID EAST. SEGEV CLAIMS THAT SECRETARY HAS RAISED ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWRY WITH ASAD.

4. IN SEPARATE EDITORIAL, MAARIV WRITES: " THE AMERICANS HAVE AMENDED THEIR POSITION ON SYRIAN JEWS, AND IT WAS GOOD THAT THEY DID SO. THEIR FOREIGN POLICY HAS ALWAYS BEEN NOTED FOR ITS HUMANITARIAN ELEMENT... WELFARE AND SECURITY OF PERSECUTED MINORITIES IS A MATTER OF HUMANITY AS A WHOLE." EDITORIALIST CONCLUDES THAT RIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWS TO LEAVE SYRIA MUST BE SECURED.

5. YEDIDOT'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT ADDS THAT DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENT WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO ANGER OF US JEWRY WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT CHANGE IN OFFICIAL POSITION.
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